

Acknowledgements

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A new name for the eastern subspecies of the Brown-backed Solitaire *Myadestes* *occidentalis*

by H. Douglas Pratt

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The Hawaiian thrushes were long classified in an endemic genus *Phaeornis*. Pratt ('Relationships and speciation of the Hawaiian thrushes': 1982, *Living Bird* 19: 73-90) showed that these birds were very similar in

a variety of characters to American solitaires of the genus *Myadestes*, and recommended the merger of that genus and *Phaeornis*. The Thirty-fifth supplement to 'The American Ornithologists' Union Check-list of North American Birds' (6th Edition 1983) (1985, *Auk* 102: 683-684) followed Pratt's recommendation. The former *Phaeornis obscurus* (Gmelin) 1789 thus became *Myadestes obscurus* (Gmelin) 1789 and the Latin name of the Brown-backed Solitaire of Mexico, formerly *M. obscurus* Lafresnaye 1839, became preoccupied. The Brown-backed Solitaire is now known as *M. occidentalis* Stejneger 1882, based on the epithet of its western subspecies. No name is available, however, for the eastern and formerly nominate subspecies. I propose that it be called

***Myadestes occidentalis orientalis* nom. nov.**

in the hope that the seemingly contradictory epithets will cause less confusion than a totally new name devoid of useful information.

It should be noted that this paper is the same as the one which was cited in my earlier work (Pratt *loc. cit.*) as "Pratt (in press)". It will not be published, *contra* the citation, in the Occasional Papers of the Museum of Zoology, Louisiana State University.

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Notes on some Brazilian seabirds (3)

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This report follows Teixeira *et al.* 1985, 1986, and records results of field-work covering the little known seabirds in Brazilian waters. They were obtained by the Ornithological Section of Museu Nacional during the last 2 years. In addition, the authors comment on some recently published data on Brazilian seabirds and clarify some existing misidentifications. Specimens in Brazilian ornithological collections are referred to by the initials of each institution plus the respective catalogue number. English names and the sequence of species follow Meyer de Schauensee (1970).

LIGHT-MANTLED ALBATROSS *Phoebetria palpebrata*

In 1985, Willis & Oniki (1985) re-identified the single specimen of *Phoebetria* in the collection of the Museu de Zoologia da Universidade de São Paulo (MZUSP 37153) as a Sooty Albatross *Phoebetria fusca*, as opposed to other authors (e.g. Pinto 1978, Sick 1985), who considered this specimen, obtained from Bertioga, coastal São Paulo (c. 23°50'S, 46°09'W) to be a Light-mantled Albatross *P. palpebrata*. Recently, we had the opportunity to visit the collection of MZUSP and to compare this